

Thank you for the opportunity to vocalize my thoughts and concerns. I shall be concise in my plea - slow down the process. First of all, the concept of having common standards (benchmarks in skills and concepts) nationwide is a good thing when creating consistency in learning. However, these common core standards can't be the main force that drives our day to day agendas in the classroom. Student's needs vary greatly and there are skills that are being forced and implemented with students that just aren't ready. Common core standards can be a starting point, the general foundation to which schools can independently build on and carry out, NOT be the only set of standards and/ or guidelines.

In regards to the teacher evaluation process...put it all on pause, until we table the process and get feedback from schools that have implemented it (either completely or carried out various components). The fact that education has become a "people pleasing service industry" and is no longer the highly respected institution of learning is deeply upsetting. I am 36 years old and still have the energy, passion, and want to foster the lifelong love of learning, BUT I am faced with parents that question my teaching practices when I require their child to work, think, apply, and challenge his/her thinking. These are the same parents that are vocal with their negativity during the evaluation process. This needs to be approached and thought out a bit more before it is implemented.

Thank you and please consider slowing ALL of this down! That includes the SBAC testing program (a debacle and logistic nightmare).

Respectfully,  
Alissa Becker  
Region 16